

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action dated October 10, 2006. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action for this Application.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doshi, et al. in view of Forin and further in view of Jones, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With respect to Independent Claims 1 and 6, there is recited in general an ability to send a first data packet of a particular packet flow over a first one of a plurality of channels selected according to the channel capacities of the plurality of channels and send a second data packet in the particular packet flow over a second one of the plurality of channels, different from the first one of the plurality of channels, as a result of the varying capacities of the plurality of channels. By contrast, the Doshi, et al. patent discloses only a single communication path 121 for transmission of packets. The Doshi, et al. patent merely discloses that the single communication path 121 may be a tandem transmit path 121 and receive path 122. Accordingly, the Doshi, et al. patent only supports the capability of having intermediate packet switches interconnected by data links along communication path 121 and in tandem along communication path 122. Thus, there is no disclosure in the Doshi, et al. patent that supports a capability to send a data packet over a selected one of a plurality of channels and send a subsequent data packet over a different one of the plurality of channels as required in the claimed invention. Moreover, the Forin patent discloses constructing packets having sizes

based on credits but does not include any additional material related to selecting from a plurality of channels for packet transport found lacking in the Doshi, et al. patent. The Examiner attempts to overcome the deficiencies of the Doshi, et al. and Forin patents by citing the Jones patent in combination therewith. However, the Jones, et al. patent merely discloses receiving credit packets for specific virtual channels. There is no disclosure in the Jones, et al. patent that allows its transmitter to select one of a plurality of channels for transmission according to channel capacities and that a second packet in a particular packet flow is sent on a different one of the plurality of channels than a first data packet of the particular packet flow. The system of the Jones, et al. patent only knows that it can send out a packet from a buffer on a particular channel when it receives a credit for that virtual channel. Thus, the sender of the Jones, et al. patent has no capability to select from a plurality of channels let alone based on the channel capacities of the plurality of channels as required by the claimed invention.

With respect to Independent Claim 11, there is recited in general the ability to receive a plurality of data packets in a non-sequential order over different ones of a plurality of channels. By contrast, as noted above, the Doshi, et al. patent receives all packets over the same communication path 122. Moreover, the Doshi, et al. patent transmits packets out in a sequential order for receipt over the communication path 122. Because all packets are transmitted over the same path, the receiver of the Doshi, et al. patent receives packets in sequential order but only stores those packets that are valid in its buffer. Invalid packets would need to be retransmitted. Thus, the Doshi, et al. patent is not able to

receive packets in a non-sequential order transmitted over a plurality of channels as required by the claimed invention. Moreover, as noted above, the Forin patent does not include any additional material to offset the deficiencies of the Doshi, et al. patent. The Jones, et al. patent has no disclosure that data packets for a particular packet flow can be received over different virtual channels. The Jones, et al. patent only receives packets associated with a particular VCN over that VCN when a credit has been issued. Packets received over that VCN are stored in a buffer specifically assigned to that VCN. (See col. 3, lines 42-66, of the Jones, et al. patent). Similarly, on the transmit side, a specific transmit buffer is associated with that VCN. (See col. 4, lines 10-15, of the Jones, et al. patent). As a result, the Jones, et al. patent is only capable of sending packets over a particular VCN from a specific transmit buffer to a specific receive buffer associated with the VCN. Thus, the Jones, et al. patent is not capable of receiving a plurality of data packets of a particular packet flow in a non-sequential order over different ones of a plurality of channels as provided in the claimed invention.

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doshi, et al. in view of Jones, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

With respect to Independent Claim 15, there is recited in general the ability to receive a plurality of data packets in a non-sequential order over different ones of a plurality of channels. By contrast, as noted above, the Doshi, et al. patent receives all packets over the same communication path 122. Moreover, the Doshi, et al. patent transmits packets out in a sequential order for receipt over the communication path 122. Because all packets are transmitted over the same path,

the receiver of the Doshi, et al. patent receives packets in sequential order but only stores those packets that are valid in its buffer. Invalid packets would need to be retransmitted. Thus, the Doshi, et al. patent is not able to receive packets in a non-sequential order transmitted over a plurality of channels as required by the claimed invention. Moreover, as noted above, the Forin patent does not include any additional material to offset the deficiencies of the Doshi, et al. patent. The Jones, et al. patent has no disclosure that data packets for a particular packet flow can be received over different virtual channels. The Jones, et al. patent only receives packets associated with a particular VCN over that VCN when a credit has been issued. Packets received over that VCN are stored in a buffer specifically assigned to that VCN. (See col. 3, lines 42-66, of the Jones, et al. patent). Similarly, on the transmit side, a specific transmit buffer is associated with that VCN. (See col. 4, lines 10-15, of the Jones, et al. patent). As a result, the Jones, et al. patent is only capable of sending packets over a particular VCN from a specific transmit buffer to a specific receive buffer associated with the VCN. Thus, the Jones, et al. patent is not capable of receiving a plurality of data packets of a particular packet flow in a non-sequential order over different ones of a plurality of channels as provided in the claimed invention.

As discussed above, none of the cited documents, alone or in combination, disclose the features of the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-18 are patentably distinct from the Doshi, et al., Forin, and Jones, et al. patents.

CONCLUSION

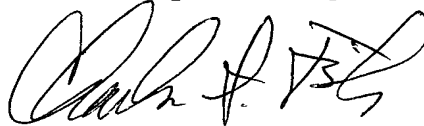
Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required or credit any overpayment associated with this Application to Deposit Account No. 02-0378 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles S. Fish", is written over the printed name.

Charles S. Fish

Reg. No. 35,870

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